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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the state waters commercial fisheries for groundfish in the Central Region for calendar year 1995. The Central Region reporting area includes Prince William Sound Area, Cook Inlet Area, and the North Gulf District. The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area encompasses all waters of PWS enclosed by lines from Point Whittard to Point Barrow, from Cape Hinchinbrook to Zaikof Point, and from Cape Clear to Cape Puget. The Cook Inlet Area consists of all waters of Cook Inlet enclosed by a line from Point Barrow to Cape Elizabeth to Cape Douglas. The North Gulf District, which is in the Central Gulf of Alaska Area, includes all territorial waters of the Gulf of Alaska north of Cape Douglas and west of 147° W. long., excluding the Cook Inlet and PWS Areas (Figure 1).

State managed fisheries for sablefish, rockfish, pollock, and lingcod will be discussed. The lingcod fishery will be reported for both state and federal waters (north of the latitude of Cape Douglas, which is the boundary between the Central and Westward Regions). Table 1 shows a summary of 1995 catches and estimated exvessel values by major fishery. Historic harvests by major area & fishery are illustrated in Figures 2-4. Table 2 chronologically lists emergency orders utilized in 1995 for all areas.

Some significant groundfish fisheries occurring in state waters, chiefly Pacific cod, are managed based on action taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service in federal waters. The Pacific cod fishery will be reported here as it is significant to the local groundfish industry and may be included in state management at some later date.

SABLEFISH

Prince William Sound

Introduction

Although sablefish has been an actively pursued species in PWS for the past decade the recent escalation in prices as well as the need to find alternative fisheries has stimulated increased effort in this fishery that occurs mostly in the deep waters of western PWS. Since 1984 catches have ranged from 110,000 lb in 1984 to 574,000 lb in 1995 while effort has ranged from 36 vessels in 1986 to 124 vessels in 1995 (Table 3).

Historically the majority of the harvest has been taken by longline gear with pot and trawl gear accounting for a very minor portion of the annual catches. Delivery ports have included Cordova, Valdez, Whittier, and Seward.

From 1987 to 1993, seasons opened concurrently with adjacent federal waters, however, the season closed by emergency order. The department began to restrict effort in 1993 with the use of weekly fishing periods. The 1994 fishery was only open for 2 periods; one for 72 hr and the other for 24 hr.

1995 Season Summary

The department anticipated an increase in vessel participation for the 1995 fishery. The following preseason measures were employed to manage the fishery:

1. A guideline harvest range of 97,000 to 386,000 lb was established. The fishery was managed for the midpoint of this range, or 241,500 lb. The guideline was

established based on both historical catch and methodology employed in the Southeast Region utilizing an estimate of likely sablefish habitat.

2. The season opening date was set at May 1 for a period of 48 hr. If the quota was not taken within the first period, then the fishery was to reopen for another period of a maximum 48 hr duration during the following week. The weekly open periods were noon Monday until noon Wednesday.
3. Fishing vessels were required to register prior to fishing. Processors were asked to voluntarily register.
4. Processors were required to report catches to the department within 24 hr of the closure.
5. All groundfish fisheries and all gear types, were closed 5 days prior to opening of the sablefish fishery. This was done in order to allow for a fair and enforceable start of the sablefish fishery.

The catch for the 1995 directed fishery was 573,064 lb taken by 120 vessels during a season that lasted a single 48 hr period from noon May 1 until noon May 3. The majority of the catch, 572,446 lb, was taken by 118 longliners; the remaining 618 lb was taken by other gear types. Another 1,131 lb of sablefish were harvested in PWS during 1995: 730 lb was taken by one subsistence fisherman in April, 399 lb were illegally harvested in October, and 2 lb were discards from 2 trawlers in February. The total 1995 catch was 574,195 lb. The approximate exvessel value of the catch was \$1,300,000.

1996 Managment Outlook

The results of the 1995 directed commercial fishery show that the upper limit of the guideline harvest range was exceeded by 187,000 lb. The department did not anticipate the high level of

effort and gear as a result the 48 hr season length was too long. In retrospect, a 24 hr period would likely have been sufficient to take the guideline.

The best available information (historic catch and fish size) indicates that the guideline harvest level for the 1996 season should be set at the same level as the 1995 guideline, 241,500 lb. Limited entry will be in place for the 1996 season, thereby limiting the number of potential fishermen but not the number of hooks fished. It appears that approximately 108 permits will be approved for the 1996 season. One permit is for trawl gear, one for pot gear, and the remainder are longliners. Permittees will also be restricted to the same vessel size class (10 ft increments) utilized during the permit qualifying years, 1991-94. Considering this limit of effort, the season length will be set at 24 hr which will in turn allow ample time to catch the 241,500 lb quota.

North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area

Introduction

The North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area are managed as a single unit for the sablefish fishery. Historically the North Gulf District has provided the majority of harvest with catch since 1987 ranging from 4,000 to 172,000 lb. Cook Inlet catches for the same period have ranged from 0 to 67,000 lb (Table 4). Effort has ranged from 6 to 85 vessels in the North Gulf District and 1 to 12 vessels in Cook Inlet.

Historic catch in the North Gulf District has been erratic, leading the department to believe that either sablefish distribution is seasonal and therefore may be affected by events elsewhere, or that the catch has been misreported. There is a general consensus among experienced fishermen and department groundfish staff that North Gulf District sablefish likely spend a portion of their annual life cycle in the deeper federal waters south of the district.

1995 Season Summary

The 1995 season initially opened concurrently with the federal IFQ sablefish fishery on March 15 and closed on April 5. The season reopened on June 7 for a single 24 hr fishing period per week. The second season closed on June 19. The March and June seasons were closed due to low catch rates of sablefish coupled with a high bycatch of other species including lingcod and rockfish. The 1995 directed fishery catch was 34,595 lb taken by 41 vessels from both the North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area.

The 1995 catch was the lowest since 1990 when 12,487 lb were taken. The 4 year average from 1991 through 1994 was 142,000 lb. Some fishermen speculated that seasonal changes in sablefish distribution may have warranted another season opening in the late summer or early fall. In 1994, for example, 73,000 of the 105,000 lb harvest was taken in September. The majority, 31,000 lb, of the remaining 32,000 lb were taken in May and June.

1996 Management Outlook

Given the somewhat erratic nature of the sablefish catch in the North Gulf District it is difficult to predict the 1996 harvest from catch statistics which are the only available source of information on this resource. The department will open the 1996 fishery concurrently with the federal IFQ fishery on March 15. The season will be allowed to proceed at least through August unless catches surge earlier and as a result fall within the recent 5 year range of 32,000 to 172,000 lb at which time the department will use catch rates, such as pounds per landing, to determine where the fishery will close within this range. If catch and catch rates remain low at the end of August, the department will balance a continuance of the season through September against the need to minimize bycatch of rockfish and lingcod which are both managed with their respective guideline harvest levels.

ROCKFISH

Prince William Sound

Introduction

Since 1987 rockfish catches in PWS have ranged from 81,000 lb in 1993 to 489,000 lb in 1990 (Table 5). The rockfish species comprising the majority of the catches (in pounds) have been rougheye, shortraker, and yelloweye. Effort has ranged from 35 vessels in 1989 to 122 in 1995. Catches have primarily come from both directed longline effort and bycatch from other longline fisheries such as sablefish and halibut.

A key component of the PWS rockfish management strategy is the Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan that was adopted into regulation by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) in 1992. Provisions of the management plan are:

1. a 3,000 lb trip limit within a 5 day period.
2. a 20% bycatch limit once the directed fishery is closed, however the above trip limit may not be exceeded.
3. a 150,000 lb guideline harvest level.

1995 Season Summary

Rockfish catch for all species was 152,886 lb taken by 122 boats. Rougheye and shortraker comprised most of the catch. The peak harvest month was May when 95 vessels delivered 85,487 lb. The high rockfish harvest corresponded to record effort levels for the PWS

sablefish fishery where rockfish were a significant bycatch component. After the sablefish closure some fishermen returned with their longline gear and fished directly for rockfish. The season opened by regulation on January 1 and the directed fishery closed by emergency order on June 25, 1996 after approximately 140,000 lb had been taken. The remaining 12,000 lb of the 1995 harvest was taken as bycatch to other fisheries such as halibut.

1996 Management Outlook

The fishery will open by regulation on January 1, 1996. The guideline harvest level will initially remain at 150,000 lb. Significant effort is not likely to occur until weather improves and the halibut IFQ season opens on March 15. Bycatch from the sablefish fishery should be a meaningful component of the annual harvest.

The department will monitor monthly catch rates and utilize data from the 1996 sablefish survey to determine if the directed fishery should be closed prior to achievement of the 150,000 lb guideline. Analysis of sablefish fishery bycatch data indicates an average of 115,000 lb of rockfish is taken as bycatch annually.

North Gulf District and Cook Inlet

Introduction

Although Cook Inlet is a large area, the North Gulf District yielded 95% or more of the rockfish catch during any year. The rocky sloped habitat is more suitable to rockfish than the generally evenly contoured, mud bottom of Cook Inlet. Since 1987 catches have ranged from 48,000 lb in both 1989 and 1990 (1989 was the year of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill) to 351,000 in 1992 (Table 5). Effort has varied from 14 vessels in 1989 to 133 vessels in 1992. Black

rockfish have composed 70% to 80% of the total harvest in a given year. Most of the blacks were taken by jig gear. Yelloweye, the second most dominant species, comprised 10% to 20% of the total annual catch. Almost 90% of the yelloweye harvest is taken by longline gear with 10% coming from jigs. Quillbacks and dusky rockfish constitute the other significant rockfish species in the commercial catch.

Rockfish in the North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area have been managed via their respective regulatory management plans. Components of these plans include:

1. 5 day trip limits 1,000 lb for Cook Inlet, and 4,000 lb for the North Gulf.
2. a 20% bycatch limit (for both areas) once the directed fishery in the North Gulf District is closed, however the above trip limit may not be exceeded.
3. a 150,000 lb guideline harvest level for the North Gulf District.

1995 Season Summary

The total catch was 307,334 lb with 302,582 lb taken by 114 boats from the North Gulf and 4,752 lb caught by 16 boats from Cook Inlet. Black rockfish comprised 77% of the harvest most of which came from directed jig effort. Yelloweye were 11% of the total coming mostly as longline bycatch to sablefish and halibut. Dusky made up 8% taken mostly by jig gear. The season extended from January 1 through June 1 when the directed fishery was closed by emergency order. Approximately 50% of the 1995 total catch was taken in the peak harvest month of May.

1996 Management Outlook

The fishery will open by regulation on January 1, 1996. The guideline harvest level will be 150,000 lb., which will include the catch from both the directed fishery and bycatch from

other groundfish fisheries. At the November 1995 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries expressed concern that the department was not implementing adequate control over the commercial rockfish fisheries. Therefore, the directed fishery will close once the total reported catch, from both the directed and bycatch fisheries, reaches 100,000 lb. This is likely to occur in April or May. The remaining 50,000 lb of the guideline will be accounted for by outstanding fish tickets from the directed fishery and bycatch from other fisheries. The North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area will close simultaneously.

POLLOCK

Prince William Sound

Introduction

Commercial pollock harvest was negligible in the Prince William Sound Area prior to 1995. The catch averaged 3,600 lb annually from, 1987 to 1994. Although trawl surveys by the federal Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and its successor, the National Marine Fisheries Service, have always indicated pollock in noticable abundance, the fish were small leading federal biologists to believe that the waters inside PWS may be a rearing area. During the late 1970's, when the state and fishing industry were trying to develop a commercial groundfish fishery in PWS and the adjacent portion of the Gulf of Alaska, pollock were generally ignored.

There was a regulatory closure to trawling in eastern PWS. It was established to protect depressed Tanner and king crab resources.

1995 Season Summary

In 1995, Kodiak based trawlers and a Cordova processor developed a market and subsequent fishery for PWS pollock. After the fishery began the department established a guideline harvest range of 2.1 to 3.1 million lb from a trawl survey databased population model. The trawl fishery was closed by emergency order on February 16, 1995. The final catch for 1995 was 6,522,878 lb. Over 6.5 million lb of this harvest came from the directed midwater trawl fishery. Trawler effort was 9 vessels that made 36 landings. A directed jig effort for cod and pollock by a single boat in April accounted for a small portion of the catch, which must remain confidential. Longline gear yielded 3,600 lb taken as bycatch by 7 vessels.

1996 Management Outlook

The 1995 biomass was projected to be 15,345 metric tons. The resultant guideline harvest level for the 1996 trawl fishery will be 3 million lb (1,400 m.t.) based on a 9 percent harvest rate.

Other management measures that will be utilized for the trawl fishery are a permit requirement, logbooks, a registration deadline 7 days prior to the season opening, and a season opening date of January 20, which coincides with the trawl opening in federal waters. Vessel operators will be required to check in with the department management biologist who will be on the grounds aboard the state research vessel *Montague*. After the trawl season is closed, fishing with pots, jigs, and longlines will be left open in order to allow for potential development.

North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area

These 2 areas are managed in concert with federal actions for the pollock fishery and gear restrictions in the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The cumulative catch from these areas between 1987 and 1995 was 15,363 lb. Although the adult pollock may move into these areas, the industry has yet to develop a significant fishery.

LINGCOD

Prince William Sound

Introduction

The department manages the lingcod harvest in both state waters and adjacent federal waters. Lingcod harvests since 1987 have ranged from 139 lb in 1993 to 19,000 lb in 1991 and have averaged 5,000 lb (Table 6). Effort has ranged from 1 vessel in 1987 and 1993 to 10 vessels in 1992. Catches have come from directed jig effort (both hand and mechanical jig) and as bycatch in both jig and longline fisheries for other species such as rockfish and halibut.

Open season dates for the fishery are July 1 to December 31. There is a minimum size requirement of 35 inches in overall length or 28 inches measured from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail.

1995 Season Summary

The 1995 catch of 139 lb landed as bycatch from 3 longline vessels is the lowest since 1987. Fishing was open for the entire regulatory season. The low catch may be partially explained by the lack of any directed jig effort in 1995. In recent years, jig gear has yielded more than half of the total harvest. For example, 16,610 lb (86%) of the the 1991 peak harvest of 19,357 lb was taken by a single vessel using jig gear.

1996 Management Outlook

The fishery will open by regulation on July 1, 1996. Lingcod may not be retained as bycatch during the closed season. If a conservation concern develops during the open season, the fishery may close by emergency order.

North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area

Introduction

The North Gulf District and the Cook Inlet Area are managed similarly for lingcod. The harvest of lingcod from the Cook Inlet Area has been negligible (644 lb since 1987) while the North Gulf District supports very active commercial and recreational fisheries. This is likely attributable to the relative lack of suitable lingcod habitat in the Cook Inlet area.

Lingcod harvests have ranged from 4,000 lb in 1990 to 88,000 lb in 1995 (Table 6). Effort during that period has ranged from 12 vessels in 1989 to 92 vessels in 1992. Since 1993, 90% of the harvest has come from directed jig effort and jig bycatch from other fisheries. However, during earlier years (1987 - 1992) approximately 60% of the annual harvest came from longline effort.

Regulations for season & minimum legal size were identical to those in PWS.

1995 Season Summary

The 1995 catch of 88,267 lb taken by 46 vessels was the highest since 1987. Harvest by jig gear was 79,785 lb or 91% of the total harvest with most of the remaining balance coming from longline effort.

Resurrection Bay was closed by emergency order to commercial lingcod fishing for the entire 1995 season. This action was taken to protect lingcod resources in the area because available data indicated continued recruitment failure.

1996 Management Outlook

Based upon increased effort and the record harvest of lingcod in 1995, fishing pressure will likely continue to rise in the North Gulf District. The proximity of the southcentral ports of Seward and Homer to lingcod habitat along the outer Kenai Peninsula support this likelihood. The department will monitor the 1996 lingcod fishery for indication of a conservation problem and if one arises the fishery may close by emergency order.

PACIFIC COD

Prince William Sound

Introduction

Harvests since 1987 have ranged from 68,000 lb in 1989 to 2.2 million lb in 1991 (Table 7). Effort since 1987 has ranged from 22 in 1989 to 130 in 1992. Prior to 1991, 99% of the harvest was taken by directed longline effort and as bycatch in other longline fisheries. In 1991 a directed pot fishery for Pacific cod developed. Since then, the proportion of the total catch taken by pot gear has increased to 80% and averaged 810,000 lb annually.

Management of the Pacific cod fishery is typically based upon inseason adjustments in adjacent federal waters.

Statewide regulations specify a groundfish pot tunnel eye perimeter of 36 in or less and require that each pot be tagged with a label displaying the word "groundfish".

The eastern portion of Prince William Sound is closed to trawl and groundfish pot gear. The closure protects depressed king and Tanner crab stocks.

1995 Fishery Summary

Pacific cod fishery management was based upon emergency order (2-GF-H-03-95) which set trawl and longline seasons to coincide with inseason adjustments made by NMFS in adjacent federal waters. Directed fishing for Pacific cod with longline and trawl gear was open from January 1 to March 22 after which bycatch amounts of (20% of the directed catch) could be retained. Directed fishing with pot and jig gear remained open continuously from January 1 to

November 29 at which time retention of Pacific cod was closed to all gear types by emergency order (2-GF-H-22-95).

Catch and effort in 1995 totalled 1,551,223 lb from 197 landings by 71 vessels. Approximately 78% of the catch was taken by 8 vessels fishing pot gear. The balance of the harvest was taken by 55 longline vessels with very small amounts attributable to jig and trawl gear.

The regulatory pot closure area was modified by emergency order to allow fishing along the margins of Hinchinbrook Entrance in waters shallower than 75 fathoms. The modification is intended to provide an opportunity for fishing within eastern PWS while minimizing potential impacts to depressed Tanner crab stocks.

1996 Management Outlook

Pacific cod will be managed concurrent with federal inseason adjustments made by NMFS for the Central Gulf of Alaska Area. Although the harvest has remained somewhat stable (1 - 2 million lb) for the last 4 years, it is difficult to anticipate fishery performance because effort has been inconsistent (44 - 130 vessels) during the same period.

North Gulf District

Introduction

Annual catch and effort from 1987 to 1994 ranged from a low of 33,644 lb taken by 13 vessels in 1989 to 4,668,352 lb taken by 170 vessels in 1992 (Table 7). Since 1992 the total harvest has exceeded 1.5 million lb annually. Historically, 75% of the catch came from both directed

longline gear and as bycatch in other longline fisheries. Although a directed fishery using pot gear developed around 1991, it has never exceeded 25% of the total harvest.

Similar to PWS, management of the Pacific cod fishery was generally based upon inseason adjustments in adjacent federal waters.

1995 Fishery Summary

Management was based upon emergency order (HQ-GF-01-95) which set North Gulf District seasons concurrent with federal action in adjacent federal waters. Directed fishing was open January 1 to March 22 for all gear types except trawl gear which opened January 20. Subsequently, directed fishing with pot and jig gear was open for two additional periods; from September 1 to October 11, and from November 7 to November 29. Retention of bycatch amounts (20% of the directed catch on board) was permitted during all closures until Pacific cod closed to retention on November 29.

Total catch was 2,965,113 lb from 258 landings by 114 vessels. The proportion of harvest by gear type was 2% longline, 14% pot, 14% trawl, and <1% jig. Overall, catch and effort in 1995 were twice 1994 levels. The trawl harvest of 425,930 lb by 5 vessels is the first since 1988.

1996 Management Outlook

Management will coincide with inseason adjustments in adjacent federal waters. Because effort has been inconsistent over time it is difficult to predict fishery performance.

Cook Inlet

Introduction

Annual harvests from 1987 to 1994 ranged from 7,000 lb in 1989 to 1.2 million lb in 1993 (Table 7). During the same period, effort ranged from 3 vessels in 1989 to 132 vessels in 1987. Until 1990, catches came from directed longline effort and bycatch from other longline fisheries. A directed pot fishery began in 1991 and has accounted for 80% of the total harvest since 1992.

Similar to the aforementioned areas, management of the Pacific cod fishery was typically based upon inseason adjustments in adjacent federal waters.

Portions of Kachemak Bay and the west side of Cook Inlet were closed by regulation to fishing with non-pelagic trawl gear. These closures protect depressed king crab stocks and rebuilding Tanner crab stocks from unnecessary mortality through handling and exposure.

1995 Fishery Summary

Management was by emergency order (2-GF-H-04-95) which set longline seasons in the Cook Inlet Area to coincide with inseason adjustments in the adjacent federal waters. Subsequently adjustments to fishing with other gear types generally mirrored federal management actions with the exception of a 24 hour extension of the Pacific cod fishery in a portion of Kachemak Bay. These actions resulted in a directed longline season from January 1 to March 22. Directed fishing for Pacific cod using pot, jig, or trawl gear reopened for two additional fishing periods; from September 1 to October 11, and from November 7 to November 29. Retention of bycatch amounts in other directed fisheries closed November 29.

Total catch was 1,394,318 lb from 456 landings by 52 vessels. Pot gear took 90% of the harvest with longline gear taking most of the balance.

Portions of Kachemak Bay and the west side of Cook Inlet were closed to fishing with pot gear by emergency order. The department also expanded the regulatory trawl closure area to include waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Anchor Point and outer Kachemak Bay. These actions were taken to better protect crab resources.

1996 Management Outlook

Management will continue to be concurrent with inseason adjustments in adjacent federal waters.

OTHER GROUND FISH

Other groundfish such as various species of flatfish and skates were landed and sold. Most of these came as bycatch in other directed fisheries. For example 1,902 lb of flatfish were landed as bycatch to the directed trawl fishery for Pacific cod. A total of 48,319 lb of skates was landed as bycatch in other directed longline fisheries. Finally, octopus are landed as bycatch in the pot fishery for Pacific cod. The 14,713 lb of octopus bycatch landed in 1995 constitutes the entire harvest of octopus from Central Region.

Table 1. Landings and exvessel value of Central Region groundfish harvests during 1987 to 1995.

Year	Rockfish	Sablefish	Pacific Cod	Flounders	Other	Lingcod	Total
<u>1987 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	279,740	227,362	2,111,306	163,238	69,849	26,254	2,877,749
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.31	\$0.64	\$0.24	\$0.28	\$0.25	\$0.45	
Value	\$86,719	\$145,512	\$506,713	\$45,707	\$17,462	\$11,814	\$813,928
<u>1988 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	299,397	398,548	849,314	17,875	16,425	26,641	1,608,200
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.33	\$0.99	\$0.24	\$0.35	\$0.28	\$0.35	
Value	\$98,801	\$394,563	\$203,835	\$6,256	\$4,599	\$9,057.94	\$717,112
<u>1989 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	140,683	194,430	110,579	11	5,037	8,306	459,046
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.41	\$0.89	\$0.21	\$0.10	\$0.16	\$0.36	
Value	\$57,680	\$173,043	\$23,222	\$1	\$806	\$2,990	\$257,742
<u>1990 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	537,010	228,360	1,581,427	72,986	12,131	13,998	2,445,912
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.38	\$0.69	\$0.24	\$0.22	\$0.12	\$0.36	
Value	\$204,064	\$157,568	\$379,542	\$16,057	\$1,456	\$5,039	\$763,727
<u>1991 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	373,322	458,729	5,198,745	4,560	3,954	84,613	6,123,923
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.28	\$0.91	\$0.28	\$0.23	\$0.46	\$0.37	
Value	\$104,530	\$417,443	\$1,455,649	\$1,049	\$1,819	\$31,307	\$2,011,797

- Continued -

Table 1. Continued.

Year	Rockfish	Sablefish	Pacific Cod	Flounders	Other	Lingcod	Total
<u>1992 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	528,973	601,365	8,205,549	2,225	17,416	30,799	9,386,327
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.32	\$0.93	\$0.24	\$0.19	\$0.35	\$0.29	
Value	\$169,271	\$559,269	\$1,969,332	\$423	\$6,096	\$8,932	\$2,713,322
<u>1993 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	165,668	486,361	6,239,067	766	32,518	15,332	6,939,081
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.36	\$0.95	\$0.22	\$0.22	\$0.53	\$0.38	
Value	\$59,640	\$462,043	\$1,372,595	\$166	\$17,235	\$5,826	\$1,917,507
<u>1994 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	319,184	408,518	5,211,990	608	28,043	27,580	5,995,923
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.39	\$1.82	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.82	\$0.36	
Value	\$125,421	\$743,503	\$1,302,998	\$304	\$22,895	\$9,929	\$2,205,049
<u>1995 Harvest</u>							
Round Weight (lb)	460,220	608,790	5,910,654	1,092	48,319	88,406	7,117,481
Price (\$/lb)	\$0.63	\$2.22	\$0.24	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.49	
Value	\$289,939	\$1,351,514	\$1,418,557	\$218	\$2416	\$43,319	3,105,963

Table 2. Numeric listing of emergency orders issued for Central Region groundfish fisheries during the 1995 season.

Emergency order Number	Effective Date	Explanation
2-GF-H-01-95	January 1, 1995	Closes commercial groundfish fishing with pot gear on west side of Cook Inlet and outer Kachemak Bay.
HQ-GF-02-95	January 2, 1995	Closes state waters within 10 nautical miles of 37 Steller sea lion rookeries.
2-GF-H-03-95	January 6, 1995	Modifies the commercial groundfish seasons for trawl gear and longline gear in the PWS area, to coincide with the adjacent federal waters of the EEZ.
2-GH-H-04-95	January 6, 1995	Modifies the commercial groundfish seasons for longline gear in the Cook Inlet Area to coincide with adjacent federal waters of the EEZ.
2-GF-H-05-95	January 6, 1995	Closes fishing with non-pelagic trawl gear in waters of Cook Inlet north of the lat. of Anchor Point.
2-GF-H-06-95	January 20, 1995	Modifies pot closure area from E.O. No. 2-GF-H-01-95. Reopens waters shallower than 25 fathoms in portions along the north side of Kachemak Bay.
2-GF-H-07-95	February 16, 1995	Closes PWS to fishing for pollock with trawl gear.
2-GF-H-08-95	March 10, 1995	Opens sablefish fishing in PWS on a schedule of one 48-hour fishing period per week beginning May 1.
2-GF-H-09-95	March 22, 1995	Closes the commercial fishery for Pacific cod in the Cook Inlet Management Area.
2-GF-H-10-95	March 22, 1995	Extends the fishery for Pacific cod in the waters of Kachemak Bay for a period of 24 hours.
2-GF-H-11-95	April 5, 1995	Closes the commercial sablefish fishery in the Cook Inlet Area and the North Gulf District.
-Continued -		

Table 2. Page 2 of 2

Emergency order Number	Effective Date	Explanation
2-GF-H-12-95	May 5, 1995	Prohibits the retention of sablefish in PWS; reopens groundfish; closes groundfish fishing with longline gear, except IFQ halibut vessels.
2-GF-H-13-95	June 1, 1995	Closes directed fishing for rockfish in the North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area.
2-GF-H-14-95	June 5, 1995	Opens the sablefish fishery in the North Gulf District on a weekly fishing schedule of 24-hours beginning noon on Wednesday, June 7, 1995.
2-GF-H-15-95	July 1, 1995	Closes waters in the Resurrection Bay area to any harvest of lingcod.
2-GF-H-16-95	June 19, 1995	Closes the sablefish fishery and reopens longline fishing for halibut IFQ vessels in the North Gulf District.
2-GF-H-17-95	June 25, 1995	Closes the directed fishery for rockfish in PWS.
2-GF-H-18-95	September 1, 1995	Opens the Pacific cod fishery in Cook Inlet for pot, hand troll, and mechanical jig gear only.
2-GF-H-19-95	October 11, 1995	Closes the directed fishery for Pacific cod in the Cook Inlet Area.
2-GF-H-20-95	November 7, 1995	Opens the Pacific cod fishery in Cook Inlet for pot, hand troll & mechanical jig gear.
2-GF-H-21-95	November 29, 1995	Closes the directed fishery for Pacific cod in the Cook Inlet Area.
2-GF-H-22-95	November 29, 1995	Closes the directed fishery for Pacific cod in the PWS Area.

Table 3. Annual effort and harvest from the commercial sablefish fishery in the Prince William Sound Area 1984 - 1995.

Year	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Pounds per vessel	Pounds per landing
1984	20	37	109,920	5,496	2,971
1985	29	108	383,290	13,217	3,549
1986	32	36	189,850	5,933	5,274
1987	71	120	205,350	2,892	1,711
1988	53	147	222,206	4,193	1,512
1989	26	98	190,633	7,332	1,945
1990	70	257	213,974	3,057	833
1991	72	147	331,314	4,602	2,254
1992	54	119	438,301	8,117	3,683
1993	55	87	313,976	5,709	3,609
1994	55	92	279,292	5,078	3,036
1995	124	135	574,195	4,631	4,253

Table 4. Annual effort and harvest from the commercial sablefish fishery in the Cook Inlet and North Gulf District 1987 - 1995.

Year	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Pounds per vessel	Pounds per landing
1987	8	8	37,338	4,667	4,667
1988	44	84	176,342	4,008	2,099
1989	6	7	3,797	633	542
1990	25	28	14,386	575	514
1991	32	43	127,283	3,978	2,960
1992	88	116	163,064	1,853	1,406
1993	43	62	172,385	4,009	2,780
1994	61	78	129,226	2,118	1,657
1995	41	54	34,595	844	641

Table 5. Annual effort and harvest from the commercial rockfish fishery in the Prince William Sound Area and the Cook Inlet Area and North Gulf District combined, 1987 - 1995.

Year	Prince William Sound			North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area Combined		
	Vessels	Landings	Total lb	Vessels	Landings	Total lb
1987	57	124	97,923	79	201	181,817
1988	64	174	111,903	49	107	187,494
1989	35	98	93,047	15	34	47,636
1990	93	401	489,169	44	58	47,841
1991	88	242	153,869	68	161	219,453
1992	105	278	177,933	133	394	351,030
1993	67	185	81,475	89	227	84,193
1994	65	163	97,728	81	220	222,040
1995	122	221	152,886	130	334	307,332

Table 6. Annual effort and harvest from the commercial lingcod fishery in the Prince William Sound Area, North Gulf District, Cook Inlet Area, and adjacent federal waters during 1987 - 1995.

Year	<u>Prince William Sound</u>			<u>North Gulf District and Cook Inlet Area Combined</u>			Federal waters lb	Combined total lb
	Vessels	Landings	Total lb	Vessels	Landings	Total lb		
1987	1	1	594	22	52	25,660	1,053	27,307
1988	3	5	1,338	12	29	18,303	4,245	23,886
1989	3	3	1,280	11	19	7,026	2,143	10,449
1990	9	11	8,117	15	17	2,549	1,688	12,354
1991	3	14	19,357	27	86	65,246	2,974	87,577
1992	10	15	2,357	75	144	27,175	19,591	49,123
1993	1	6	245	8	18	4,276	83,072	87,593
1994	6	17	9,540	9	12	22,069	37,160	68,769
1995	3	5	139	27	38	43,173	45,094	88,406

Table 7. Annual effort and harvest from the commercial Pacific cod fishery in the Prince William Sound Area, Cook Inlet Area, and North Gulf District, 1987 - 1995.

Year	<u>Prince William Sound</u>			<u>North Gulf District</u>			<u>Cook Inlet Area</u>			Total all areas
	Vessels	Landing	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	
1987	60	109	444,094	104	245	783,500	132	557	711,214	1,938,808
1988	37	85	325,860	31	85	307,284	37	137	211,338	844,482
1989	22	44	67,825	13	22	33,644	3	3	7,144	108,613
1990	81	300	1,153,538	20	26	50,774	34	101	219,894	1,424,206
1991	94	226	2,218,911	82	158	961,935	77	339	932,403	4,113,249
1992	130	511	1,854,359	170	637	4,668,352	56	269	785,003	7,307,714
1993	53	193	1,022,546	94	278	2,831,561	29	177	908,053	4,762,160
1994	44	172	1,671,503	59	162	1,499,023	28	244	1,200,508	4,371,034
1995	71	197	1,551,223	114	258	2,965,113	52	456	1,394,318	5,910,654

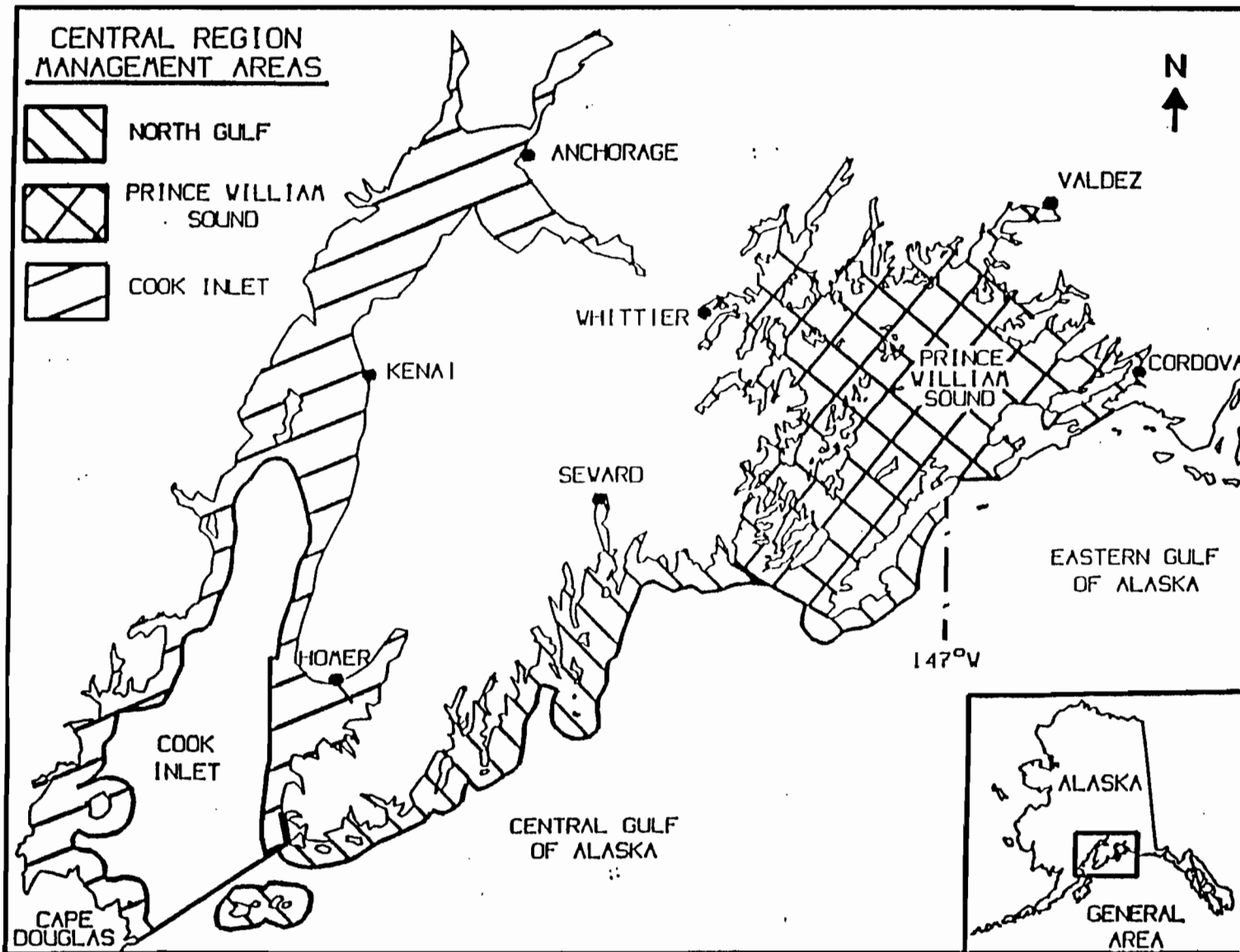


Figure 1. Groundfish management areas for state waters in the Central Region.

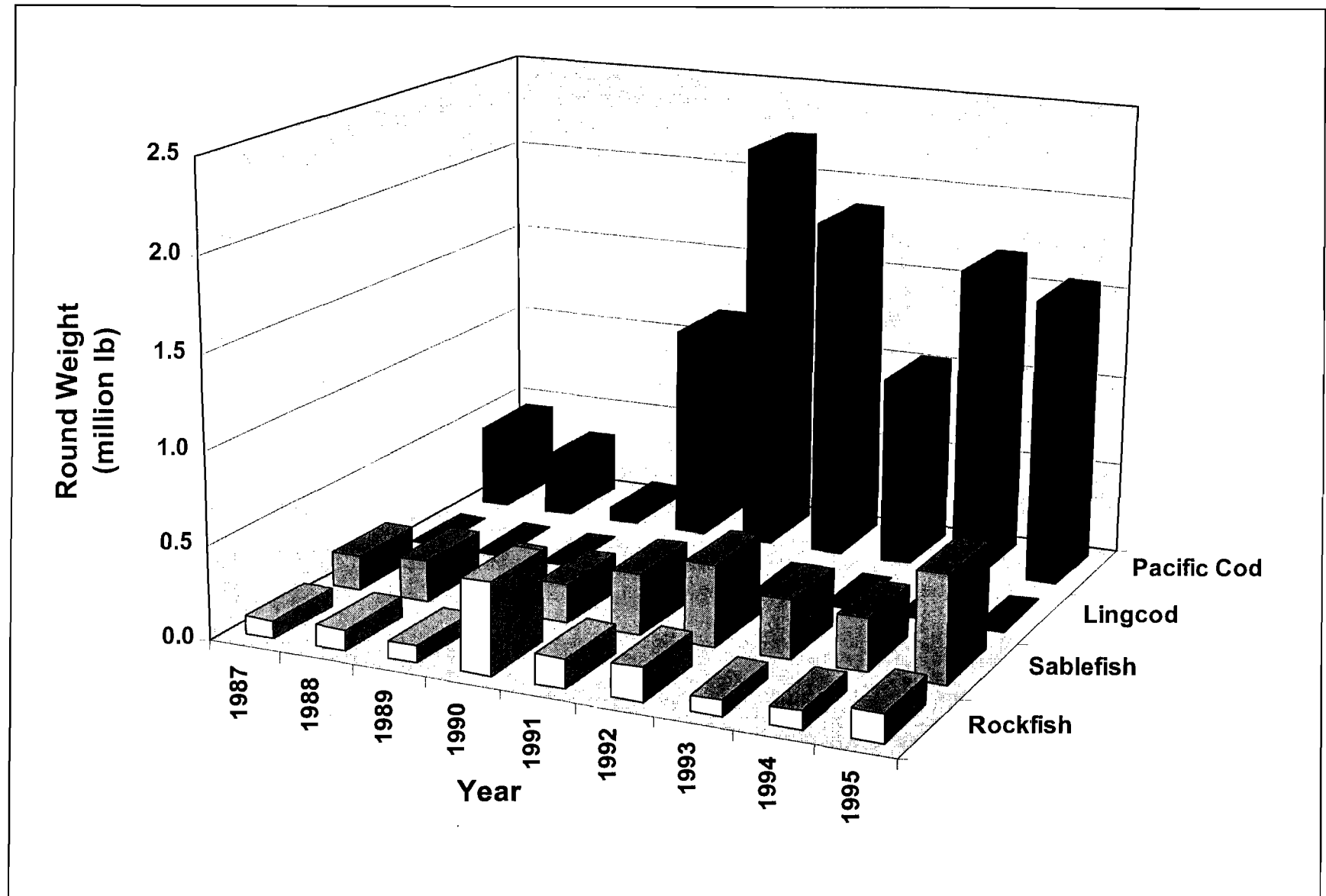


Figure 2. Groundfish harvests from the Prince William Sound Management Area during 1987 - 1995.

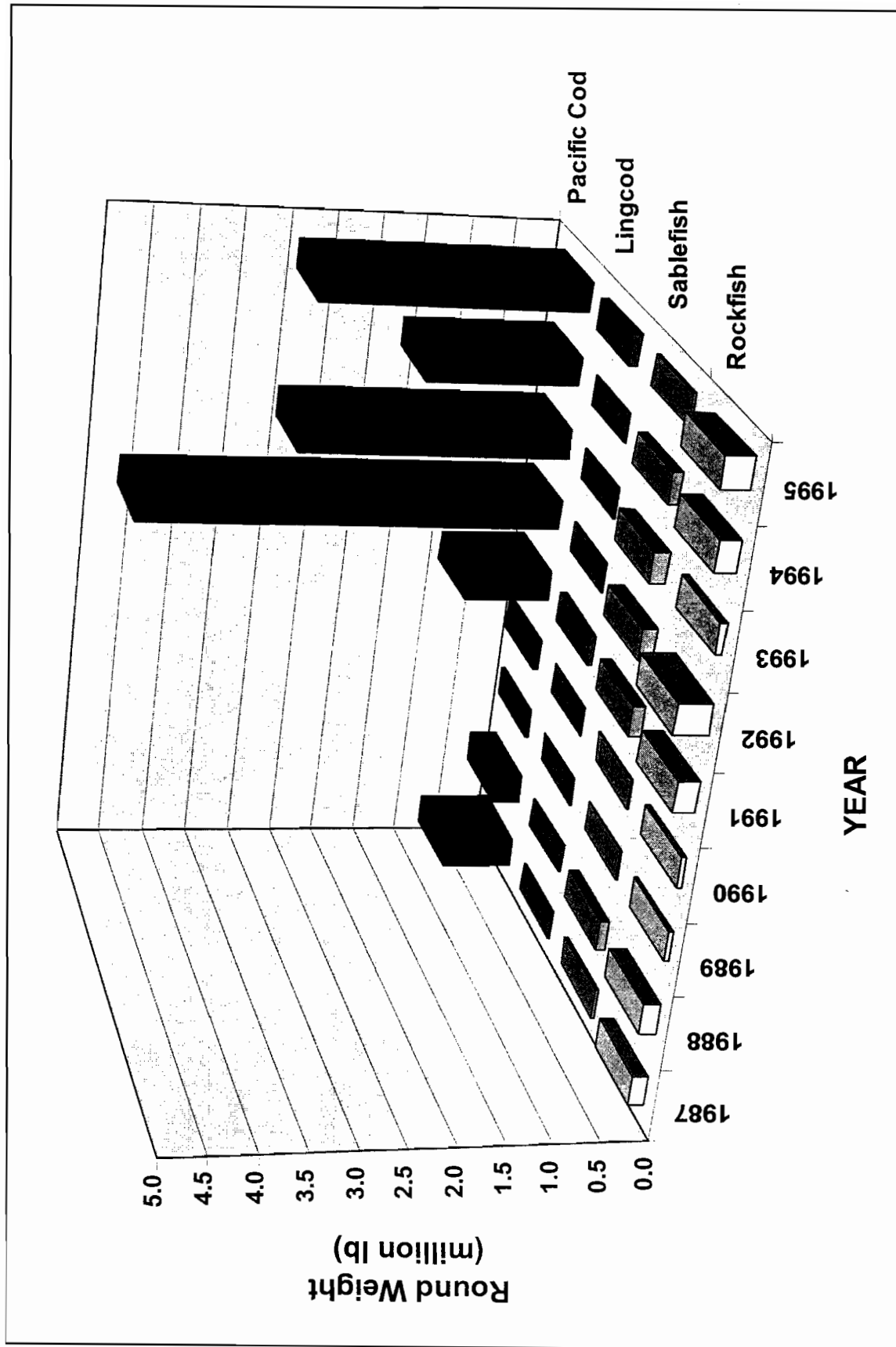


Figure 3. Groundfish harvests from the North Gulf District during 1987 - 1995.

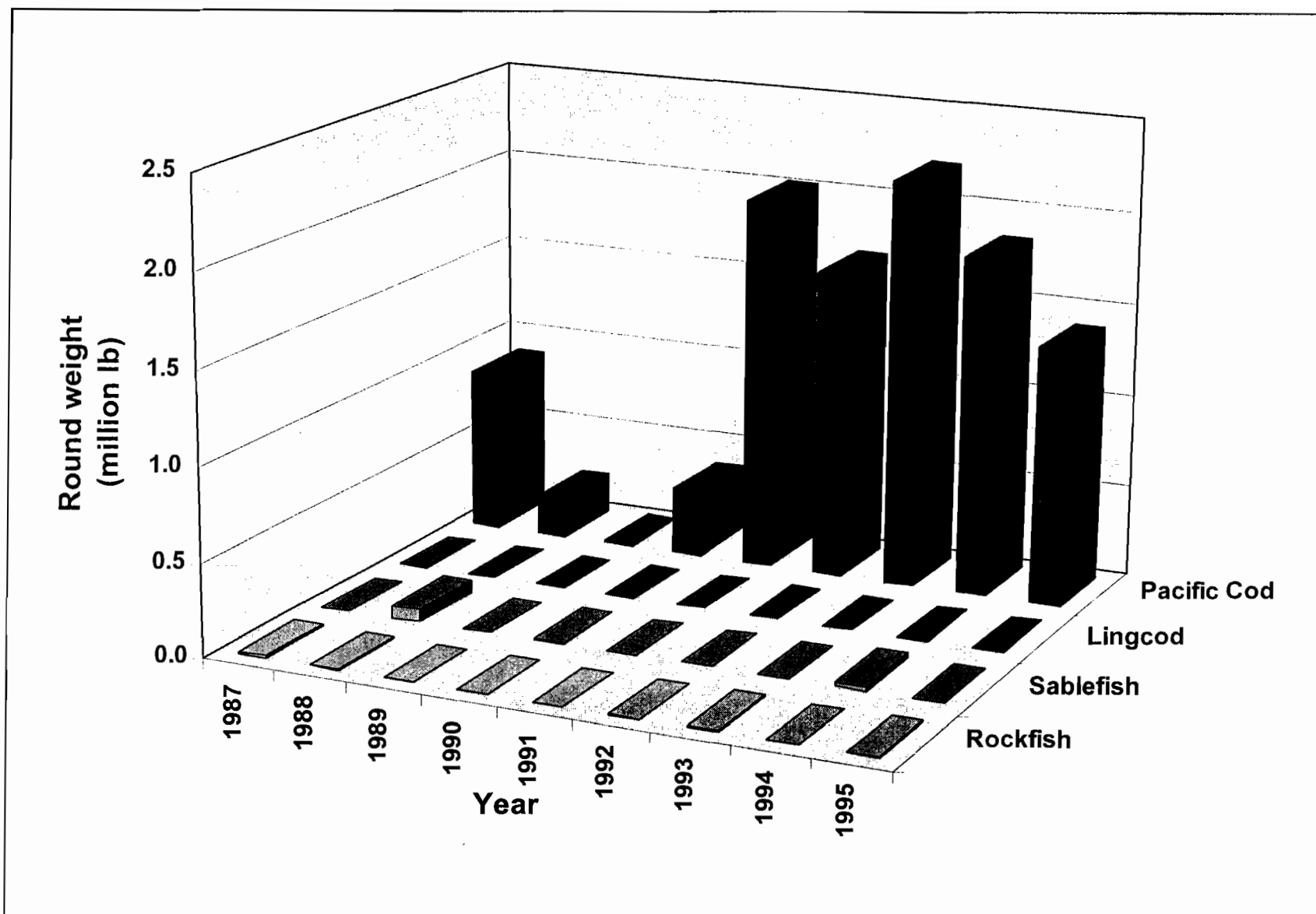


Figure 4. Groundfish harvests from Cook Inlet Area during 1987 - 1995.

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